



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

April 16, 2007

Hello Friends,

With the legislature having reconvened after the Spring Recess, Sacramento is back in full gear. With Assembly policy committees meeting every week through the end of April, countless individuals, organizations, and interests groups are working the halls of the Capitol in support or opposition to many important pieces of legislation. In the midst of this hustle and bustle, I continue to keep an open door to constituents of the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and get back to the District often.

Whether in Sacramento or back home in the Valley, I always welcome and appreciate the chance to hear from you. Thank you for letting me know your hopes and priorities for the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

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### What's Happening in Sacramento

Beginning, April 9, **policy committees** began to hear bills in the State Capitol. This has been a particularly good week for legislation I have been fortunate enough to introduce on behalf of the people of the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. And I thank all of the many **personal stories and public support** I have received for my legislation. Please see below for a summary of my bills that have progressed to the next stage in the legislative process.

I am pleased to note that the **State Department of Housing and Community Development** has awarded the **City of Huron** and the **County of Tulare** grants from the Planning and Technical Assistance Allocation of the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. These grants help communities lay the groundwork for affordable housing and economic development activities that benefit lower-income households.

The last day for **policy committees** to hear and report **fiscal bills** for referral to fiscal committees is April 27.

I was delighted to speak to the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) and the **California YouthBuild Coalition** to support efforts to train, educate and develop California's at-risk youth. Over 500 youth from throughout the state came to Sacramento to meet with state

officials and learn how California's government functions and to educate legislators on the importance of these programs. Attendees include members of the **Fresno and Tulare Local Conservation Corps**. [www.californialocalconservationcorps.org](http://www.californialocalconservationcorps.org)

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### **My Legislative Highlights**

**My bill aimed at targeting drunk drivers** (AB 808) passed unanimously out of the Assembly Transportation Committee. **AB 808** is part of a bi-partisan package of bills designed to reduce drunk driving by requiring people applying for a driver's license, or renewal of a license, to acknowledge that drinking and driving can result in death. AB 808 will make it easier for prosecutors to charge offenders charged with driving under the influence (DUI) with second-degree murder when their irresponsible actions lead to the death of an innocent person.

**AB 994** passed out of the Assembly Business & Professions Committee. I introduced AB 994 to level the field by **granting special state purchase consideration for lumber and other wood products manufactured right here in California**. AB 994 would establish a state purchase preference for solid wood products originating from California's forests.

Sponsored by the **Corcoran Police Department and Kings County Deputy Attorney's Office**, I introduced **AB 441** to ensure persons convicted of the sale of methamphetamine, who are granted probation, will serve at least 120 days in the county jail. AB 441 has taken one step closer to becoming law, after passing out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee. It is time we stopped the revolving door of methamphetamine addicts in our prison system, and do a better job protecting our communities and neighbors.

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### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people and organizations making a difference in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and throughout the State. The following are just a few highlights of the fantastic people I want you to know:

Some of the brave and dedicated member of the **Kern County and Fresno City Firefighters Associations** visited. We were able to discuss many of the public health and safety issues they confront on a daily basis. Firefighters throughout the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District continue to provide leadership and invaluable service to our communities.

I also want to thank **Allensworth Town Council president Netti Morrison**, and local 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District residents **Beverly Blake, Lupe Martinez** and **Maribel Nzegwu** who traveled up to Sacramento to visit and share their feelings about **Allensworth State Park**. The state park is a gem in the midst of the Central Valley. I encourage everyone to visit Allensworth State Park and enjoy its historical, cultural, and recreational wonders. [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=583](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=583)

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### **In the District**

Our continued efforts to raise money and awareness for families affected by the January freeze received a big boost this month. With a weeklong radio blitz, courtesy of **Romeo** and the folks at **94.1 FM radio**, I held a press conference on April 1 at **Mercado Latino** in **Bakersfield**. Joining me were **Delano City Councilwoman Grace Vallejo** and local businesses, including **The Southern California Gas Company, Wells Fargo, American Media General**, and many others. To date, we have collected thousands of dollars in contributions to help those most in need. For more information on how you can be a part of this effort, please contact **Michal Yniguez** at **661-336-5236** at **Community Action Partnership of Kern**, or visit them at [www.capk.org](http://www.capk.org)

I was very pleased to have lunch in Bakersfield with many **Labor leaders throughout Kern County**. Special thanks to **Jack Brigham** for helping put the event together. I have been, and continue to be, a strong supporter of our working men and women. Many Labor representatives were able to share their legislative priorities in 2007 and key issues facing them in the District.

While in Kern County, I was also able to meet with many local community leaders, including **McFarland Mayor Kenneth Rossen** and **City Manager Gerald Forde**. I enjoyed a nice talk with **Gloria Patterson**, who shared her concerns and thoughts on the community, and had an opportunity to speak with **Don Ludy** about enrollment issues facing **Pond Unified School District**.

Finally, I want to congratulate the recipients of the **2007 ADELANTE Awards**. The awards are given each year to individuals committed to expanding educational opportunities for California youth through leadership development. This year's heroes are: 1) Kern County Superior Court Judge **Robert Tafoya**, 2) Bakersfield College Chancellor **Sandra Serrano**, 3) Delano civic leader **Anthony Martinez**, and 4) Delano Stallions Youth Football head coach and president **Eddie Espitia**. Congratulations and thank you to these fine leaders.

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### Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at:

[Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at:  
[Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Rozanne Jones** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at:  
[Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov).

**Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

**Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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